

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SECRETARY'S MILWAUKEE ADDRESS ON JULY 14

1. THERE HAS BEEN AS YET NO OFFICIAL PUBLIC REACTION TO THE SUBJECT SPEECH, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RELATIVELY RESTRAINED COMMENTS OF A MEXICAN SENATOR. CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE'S FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ENRIQUE GONZALEZ PEDRERO CHARACTERIZED THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE UN AS A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL "DOMINATED BY THE VICTORS IN WORLD WAR II." GONZALEZ THOUGHT THE POSITION OF THE GREAT POWERS (AS REFLECTED IN SECRETARY'S SPEECH) UNDERSTANDABLE BUT THE POSITION OF THE "WEAK COUNTRIES" AS NOT ONLY UNDERSTANDABLE BUT ALSO JUST. HE DID NOT SEE THE THIRD WORLD AS A "BLOC" BUT RATHER AS COUNTRIES WITH COMMON INTERESTS TO DEFEND AGAINST A WORLD WHICH "HAS NOT UP TO NOW, DISTINGUISHED ITSELF FOR ITS IDEA OF JUSTICE."

2. MOST MAJOR PAPERS (EXCEPT SEMI-OFFICIAL NACIONAL) EDITORIALIZED ON SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON JULY 16, AND MOST COMMENTS WERE CRITICAL. INDEPENDENT UNIVERSAL ASSERTS THAT THE U.S. HAS NEITHER POLITICAL "MONOPOLY" NOR FORMER ECONOMIC PREPONDERANCE AND BELIEVES THAT IF U.S. WITHDREW
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FINANCIAL SUPPORT, UN WOULD, IN THE END, BE STRENGTHENED.

INCREASINGLY GOM-ORIENTED EL SOL SAYS SECRETARY'S REMARKS OPENLY QUESTION THE MECHANISM OF CONCILIATION (I.E., UN) "CREATED TO AVOID THE HORRORS OF WAR." RADICAL NATIONALIST EXCELSIOR REFERS TO SUBJECT SPEECH AS "BLACKMAIL" BY MEANS OF WHICH U.S. SEEKS TO TURN BACK HISTORY AND "REMEDY THE IRREMEDIALABLE." THE UN IS NO LONGER A "CLUB OF THE ELECT" AND "MR. KISSINGER'S THREATS WILL NOT DETER THE POOR COUNTRIES." ONLY CONSERVATIVE HERALDO EXPRESSES SYMPATHY FOR THE U.S. VIEW, NOTING THAT "DIALOGUE" IN THE UN HAS TURNED INTO "VERBAL WAR".

3. COMMENT: IN THIS CASE, MEXICAN MEDIA COMMENT SEEMS MORE LIKE A REFLEX REACTION THAN REASONED RESPONSE. MANY POINTS IN THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH, OF COURSE, ARE COUNTER TO THE THIRD WORLD RHETORIC, LONG SINCE ACCEPTED AS GOSPEL HERE AND, ACCORDINGLY, HAVE -- TO MEXICANS -- SOME FAINT SMELL OF HERESY.

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